

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The autofocus module possesses, between the detector element (43) and the optical means, a cylindrical lens (42) that, for determination of the focus position, generates a line on the detector element (43). In addition, the  
10 detector element (43) is pivotable about an axis in such a way that it is inclined with respect to a plane defined by the surface of the specimen (20), and its inclination is adjustable. All the optical components of the autofocus module are combined in a housing (25) that can be quickly flange-mounted onto an existing microscope-based system (1).

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(FIG. 1)